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CHAPTER VIII.

THIRTY YEARS OF HISTORY—MÜTTER, PANCOAST, MITCHELL—ATTENDANCE 1858-59—PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN 1860—HUNTER MCGUIRE—EXODUS OF STUDENTS—THE CIVIL WAR—DA COSTA—THE SUMMER COURSE—THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

STANDING at this time at the threshold of a new period in the life of the Jefferson Medical College, and glancing backward into the past, a novel and in some respects unique history is presented. The thirty years that now have passed may be naturally divided into two brief periods of fifteen years each; periods wholly dissimilar in the workings of the institution. The first of these was given largely to the work of building up, tearing down, and then rebuilding; the second was one of building up alone, a period of achievement only. From the time that McClellan founded the institution until 1841, there was hardly a single year in which the machinery of the College worked without friction in some of its parts; hardly a year in which a spirit of contention was not a most conspicuous accompaniment of its history. This fifteen years constituted the first of the brief periods referred to.

The second period was the direct opposite to the first. It began with the organization of 1841, and continued indefinitely to the beginning of the twentieth century, and it still continues greater than ever before; but for the purpose of our division, the second period continued from 1841 to the time when the first break was made in the Faculty by the resignation of Mütter in 1856, followed by the retirement of Huston in 1857, the death of Mitchell in 1858, and the retirement of Meigs a year or two later.

The College was now on a foundation so solid that the loss of a single member of its faculty could not in any degree impair its efficiency or impede its progress, and the loss within the brief space of three years of three of the

brightest lights of the Faculty was not sufficient to weaken its strength or its hold upon the profession. There was other valuable material with which to repair the break, and when Mütter retired and was made Professor Emeritus, Gross was called to the vacant chair of Institutes and Practice of Surgery. From this time it was no longer Pancoast and Mütter, but Pancoast, Mütter, and Gross. Death soon claimed Mütter, after which those professional giants, Pancoast in the chair of Surgical Anatomy, and Gross in the chair of Surgery, worked hand in hand in the interest of medical education, and the honor of Jefferson.

It is doubtful if two greater masters than these ever were brought together in any Faculty. Both were known to fame before they became a part of the life of Jefferson. Pancoast was young in years and professional experience when he first became a member of the Faculty, yet even then he was recognized as one of the most brilliant teachers and surgeons of his time. Had not this been so, he would not have filled the place of such a man as McClellan. But Gross was a son of Jefferson, a graduate of 1828, and held an experience of nearly thirty years in practice and the Professor's chair before he became a teacher in this school.

Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell was a worthy successor to Dr. Huston in the chair of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics. He, too, was known to fame as a teacher, and had made a reputation by his work in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, in Lexington, Kentucky, before he came to Jefferson to take Huston's vacant chair. In introducing him to the public as an instructor, the Faculty announcement says:

"Professor Thomas D. Mitchell, formerly of Kentucky, known to the profession as a practiced lecturer in different medical schools, and a writer on subjects appertaining to the chair, has been appointed to succeed Professor Huston."

A year later, Professor John K. Mitchell died, and Dr. Samuel H. Dickson was called to the chair of Practice of Medicine. Dr. Mitchell's death was a serious loss to the school, but the chair lost none of its strength

when Dickson was appointed to fill the vacancy. The Faculty chose well when they called him from the south, and they announced him correctly as possessing "widespread reputation as an able and accomplished medical teacher and author." There was no further change in the personnel of the Faculty until the session of 1861-62, when Professor Meigs yielded his chair to Professor Keating, and the latter in less than a year gave way to Dr. Ellerslie Wallace, who for several years had been identified with the school as Demonstrator of Anatomy.

While these changes were taking place, the affairs of the College were progressing favorably, and the new period which opened in 1856 had had a satisfactory beginning. Its duration was about equal to that of its predecessors, and it closed with the attainment of the end that both Mitchell and Mütter had long before hoped for—the establishment of a general hospital in connection with the College. This great consummation was reached in 1873, a little more than fifteen years after the first break in the ranks of the Faculty of 1841.

During the school session of 1856-57, the aggregate attendance of students was 488, and at the next annual commencement diplomas in medicine were awarded to 212 graduates. In the following year still greater gains were made, the number being 501, while the graduates numbered 209. As in former years, the students were drawn from almost every state, Pennsylvania naturally leading, but with the southern states standing next in point of representation. In fact the south always had loyally supported Jefferson, both in students and in the Faculty. There was something in the atmosphere of the school that seemed to invite attendance from that great section of the country; something in the spirit of its institutions that was especially congenial to the southern temperament. The Faculty were aware of the popularity of their school in the south, and, so far as was consistent with propriety, did much to encourage attendance from that region.

In the annual announcement for 1858-59, the Faculty made an analysis of the attendance at that session. It showed the representation of the

several states, and therefore forms an interesting study, especially when compared with the register of students of a few years later, for the war of 1861-65 caused the withdrawal of so many southerners that the Trustees and Faculty were for a time apprehensive that the doors of the institution might be closed. Having recourse to the published announcement for the year mentioned, it is found that the various states were represented in the College as follows:

Pennsylvania	126	Delaware	4
Virginia	74	Canada West	4
North Carolina	34	U. S. Navy	4
Georgia	30	Florida	3
Kentucky	26	Rhode Island	3
Mississippi	25	Arkansas	3
Alabama	25	Vermont	3
South Carolina	18	Louisiana	2
New Jersey	16	Connecticut	2
Tennessee	14	District of Columbia	2
Ohio	13	Nova Scotia	2
Indiana	12	New Hampshire	1
Maryland	10	Iowa	1
Illinois	9	Wisconsin	1
Missouri	9	U. S. Army	1
New York	8	New Brunswick	1
Massachusetts	6	South America	1
Maine	4	China	1
Texas	4		
			501

Of the graduates there were, from

Virginia	46	New York	3
Pennsylvania	28	Massachusetts	3
Alabama	15	Texas	3
Georgia	13	Florida	2
North Carolina	12	Maine	2
South Carolina	12	Maryland	2
Kentucky	11	Delaware	1
Mississippi	10	Connecticut	1
New Jersey	9	Louisiana	1
Tennessee	8	Rhode Island	1
Ohio	7	Dist. of Columbia	1
Missouri	6	New Brunswick	1
Indiana	5	England	1
Illinois	4	Montevideo	1
			209

Of the aggregate attendance at the time indicated, 274 students were from what may be termed southern states. This was more than half of the entire number in the institution. For several years the south had been well represented in the Faculty, but, at the beginning of the period under treatment, the several chairs were more largely filled with Professors from that

region than ever before, and each of them was an instructor of wide acquaintance generally.

At the Annual Commencement held in March, 1860, the doctor's degree was awarded to 170 graduates. This was nearly up to the standard, but soon afterward the College was destined to suffer a serious loss in attendance, therefore in the number of graduates. The cause of this remarkable decline was in no sense due to events within the control of the Faculty or the Trustees.

For several years there had been maintained in Philadelphia private schools for medical instruction in special branches. One of these schools was kept by Dr. William S. Forbes, who for many years has now held a professorship in Jefferson, and who originally furnished instruction in anatomy and operative surgery. At one time he had as many as two hundred pupils, drawn from the classes of Jefferson and also from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Forbes enjoyed a wide reputation as a teacher of anatomy and operative surgery, and, as many students desired to add to their store of knowledge on those subjects, they joined his school and were benefited by his teaching. It was not that Pancoast and Gross were in any degree lacking in the work of their chairs, but rather that students at that time were using every means to fit themselves for active life as surgeons as well as physicians; and, besides, Dr. Forbes's school offered some advantages that the College did not possess.

Another private school was that conducted by Dr. D. Hayes Agnew, which also was well patronized and was productive of great good, without detracting from the usefulness or popularity of Jefferson, or of the University, whose students composed his classes. A third school of the same character was that kept by Dr. Hunter McGuire, a brilliant young southerner, and famous "quiz" on anatomical subjects, whose class-room was always well filled, for he was popular with the medical students in the city, and especially with those who came from the southern states. He was educated professionally in southern medical schools, and also in Philadelphia,

and received his degree from Winchester Medical College in 1855. In 1858 he removed to Philadelphia, began practice, and also received pupils for special instruction.

Hunter McGuire was never a part of the teaching force of the Jefferson Medical College, nor was he in any manner associated with the institution. His school was a private enterprise, whose teachings were in harmony with the courses in the College, and not at all prejudicial to the interests of either collegiate institution; hence there was no pronounced objection to its maintenance on the part of the Faculty until after McGuire's grand *coup* in 1860, which took from Jefferson nearly one-half of its total attendance and transferred it to the medical schools of Richmond, Virginia.

As has been stated, Hunter McGuire was from the south. Naturally he possessed all the distinguishing traits of the high-born Virginian. He had an ardent, fiery temperament, and entered into every work of whatever character with all the spirit of his nature. This was shown in his teaching in his private school, in his social intercourse with his students, and in the zeal with which he espoused the cause of the South at the outbreak of the war of 1861-65. Whether he took the initiative in inducing Jefferson's southern students to leave the College is uncertain, even at this remote day. If he did not, he at least gave heed to the importunities of the management of the Richmond schools, and led away from Philadelphia several hundred students of medicine. His action led to ultimate prohibition against schools of the character of his own. In fact, they never were looked upon with favor by any of the colleges, although they were tolerated. At this particular time, Philadelphia possessed almost too many institutions for the acquisition of medical knowledge.

The exodus under McGuire took place at the beginning of the war. From Richmond, the capital of the Confederate States, there was made a request upon the southern medical students in Philadelphia to withdraw themselves from the schools of the latter city and enter those of the former. They were promised the same relative standing; and more, they were promised in-

struction gratis. This influenced them and determined their course of action, and, led by Hunter McGuire, they abandoned Jefferson and the University and entered the schools of Richmond.

From these schools many of the students enlisted in the Confederate service, and some of them afterward attained to positions of prominence in professional life. McGuire himself enlisted early and was soon promoted Medical Director of the Army of the Shenandoah Valley, and Brigade Surgeon under "Stonewall" Jackson. Later on he was made Medical Director of the Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. After the war he devoted his attention to medical teaching and writing, and was eminently successful in each capacity. In 1887 the University of North Carolina gave him the degree of LL. D., and subsequently he was similarly honored by the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College.

Dr. Holland's history says that "when the civil war broke out, as two-fifths of the class usually came from the southern states, it is not surprising that in two years the roll of students shrank from 630—the largest class which up to that time had attended any medical college in this country—to only 275." However, it was not alone the withdrawal of the southern students that decimated the ranks of Jefferson during the early years of the war. If the great south had a claim upon her young men for active service in the ranks of the Confederate army, the greater north had equally strong claims upon her own sons, and had not to ask them to lay aside for the time their books and lectures and the interesting studies of the clinics. They came with the call for volunteers; they enlisted, some serving in the ranks, others in the field and staff, and all where duty called; and, if history is true, these sons of Jefferson gave to their country as good service as those of any collegiate institution in the land.

For the session of 1861-62 the number of matriculates was 238, and at the close of the year 77 diplomas were awarded. In the next year the matriculates numbered 275, and the graduates 82. Of the latter only five were from the states south of "Mason and Dixon's Line." At this time the facil-

ities for obtaining thorough medical training, especially in hospital and surgical work, were excellent, for Philadelphia then was rich in its civil and military hospitals, infirmaries and dispensaries. The Faculty in the College was as it was before, and William H. Pancoast had been made Demonstrator of Anatomy. For the session of 1863-64, the matriculates numbered 351, and at the close of the year 124 diplomas in medicine were awarded.

Now the students from the south were beginning to return to patronize their old-time favorite school. Although the war was still in progress, with its fortunes turning against the Confederate arms, these sons of the south still remembered with affection the splendid institution in the city of "Brotherly Love," and they were anxious to return and secure their diplomas from Jefferson. Some of them were of the number who had deserted the College a few years before. The Richmond schools had given them courses of instruction, but Dunglison was not there, nor Pancoast, nor Gross, nor any other of the renowned teachers who had given Jefferson an almost world-wide fame.

In 1864 the chair of Chemistry was made vacant by the death of Professor Bache, and Dr. B. Howard Rand was appointed to succeed him. Professor Thomas D. Mitchell died in the next year, and his chair of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics was assigned to Dr. John B. Biddle. He was announced as "an accomplished and practiced lecturer," having formerly occupied the chair of Materia Medica in the Franklin Medical College, and afterward in the Pennsylvania Medical College of Philadelphia.

After the close of the war, a new life, a new spirit of enterprise, seemed to inspire the Trustees and Faculty of the College, and to urge them on to still greater endeavors to advance the efficiency of the school. In 1866 the regular teaching corps was increased by the addition of Dr. Jacob M. Da Costa, to whom was assigned the lectureship on Chemical Medicine. In the same year a "Summer Course" of instruction was provided for, and the work of the Faculty was supplemented by the services of Dr. W. H. Pancoast, S. W. Gross, J. Aitkin Meigs, R. J. Levis and F. F. Maury.

The establishment of the summer course was a progressive step in Jefferson history, and was productive of good results, although at the time the action was regarded as an experiment. Still earlier than this there had been shown a disposition to open a summer course of lectures, but owing to various causes the matter had been delayed. The new course was of an entirely practical character, embracing important special work in medicine and surgery, with extensive clinical illustrations. In the assignment of lectureships, Clinical Surgery was given to Pancoast and Gross; Clinical Obstetrics to Wallace; Pathology to Dickson; Hygiene and Meteorology to Rand; Materia Medica and Therapeutics to Biddle; Clinical Medicine to Da Costa; Visceral and Surgical Anatomy to W. H. Pancoast; Minor and Operative Surgery to S. W. Gross; Physiology to J. Aitkin Meigs; Ophthalmic and Aural Surgery to R. J. Levis; and Venereal Diseases to F. F. Maury. In the following year the lectureship of Minor and Operative Surgery was assigned to Dr. John H. Brinton, and new work on Pathalogical Anatomy was given to Dr. W. W. Keen, who now, for the first time, became a factor in the history of the College.

In 1868, after twenty-five years of active service, Dr. Dunglison was compelled by failing health to resign the chair of Institutes of Medicine, and also the important office of Dean of the Faculty. His colleagues were reluctant to part with their faithful co-worker, whom they regarded as the balance wheel of the College, and whose counsel and influence always were for its best interests; but the worthy senior member of the Faculty was now broken in health and bowed with infirmities of age, having passed the allotted three score years and ten. He had earned retirement, but his continued association with Faculty work was desirable, hence his appointment as Emeritus Professor of Institutes and Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence. He was continued in this capacity until his death, April 1, 1869.

The session of 1869-70 opened without material change in any of the Professorships. Dr. Meigs was still Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics, while the active duties of that chair devolved upon Professor Wallace. The

summer courses were continued; indeed they had now become a regular part of the educational system of the College, and were of such importance to the students that there was no thought of abandoning them. On the contrary, these courses were being gradually extended to include new subjects of special instruction, and every year were adding to the usefulness of the school as a medium of higher medical education. For the session referred to, thirty-nine different states were represented by matriculates, the aggregate attendance numbering 435 students; and in March, 1870, 160 diplomas in medicine were awarded to graduates.

The course of study in the college now included a carefully considered combination of didactic and clinical teaching, and was the result of many years' experience. The clinical facilities of Philadelphia at the time were unsurpassed, and the clinic of Jefferson especially was held in high esteem throughout the country, for here were presented and treated cases of every variety known to the profession.

But not in its clinic alone lay the great strength of the College at this time; the Faculty were too practical to be led into exclusive specialties. They believed that clinical studies pursued too exclusively tended to empiricism in practice, hence so arranged the didactic lectures as to furnish the students a thorough knowledge of all the principles of the profession. To accomplish this, the Faculty employed the most ample means of illustration, with every care to treat the subject clearly and with direct reference to practical results. Still, special instruction was even now one of the features of the College course in Jefferson, and each adjunct lecturer was chosen with reference to his capacity to teach the subjects assigned to him. There were now nine of these lectureships in addition to the regular chairs, Drs. Cohen and Ray having been added to the teaching corps in 1870.

In Jefferson Medical College annals the year 1870 was made memorable by the organization of an Alumni Association, the prime object of which was to advance the interests of the institution and of medical education. The idea of forming such an association had been discussed for several

years, and it is a little surprising, when the importance of the enterprise is considered, that it was so long delayed. However, the desired consummation was at length attained, and the Association entered upon its history with promise of future usefulness and increased strength. The elder Gross was its first president. In an address to the members at the end of the first year he said:

"Even now the organization cannot be said to be complete, notwithstanding the labor and best directed efforts of the executive committee. Much remains to be done to give it efficiency, to put it in proper working order, and to extend its usefulness. We may congratulate ourselves, however, upon having made a fair beginning; and, if we proceed in the proper spirit —the spirit of kindly feeling and cordial sympathy, vigorously and earnestly carrying out our plans and intentions, it is easy to foresee what will be the result."

Gross's prophecy has been fulfilled; he lived to share in the honor of a large Alumni Association as an element of Jefferson's history, and no man contributed more than he to the results it accomplished. However, the "Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia," is made the subject of a special chapter in this work, hence further allusion to it in this place is not necessary.

The remaining years of the period under treatment were not especially eventful. As the terms and sessions passed one after another, each witnessed its own changes and the steady and healthful growth of the College in every direction; ever keeping even step with the advance in medical science, and sometimes leading the way for other institutions to follow. It was in all respects an era of progress and prosperity, without recurrence of the embarrasments of earlier years, without contention within, and without opposition from influences outside the circle of the College household. The Faculty and the Trustees were now in perfect accord, and peace prevailed on every hand.

On Easter Sunday morning in 1872, died Samuel Henry Dickson, who for several years had held the chair of Theory and Practice of Medicine. He had been a good teacher, a faithful worker, and a loyal friend to the

school. His natural and logical successor was Da Costa, former Lecturer on Clinical Medicine. In the same year Dr. J. Eneu Loughin was appointed Adjunct Lecturer on Chemistry and Pathology of the Urine, and in 1873 Dr. R. M. Townsend was chosen as Lecturer on Minor Surgery. For the session of 1872-73, the number of matriculates was 462, and in March, 1873, the graduating class numbered 149.

The total number of graduates to this time was 6201. No stronger proof than this is needed of the appreciation by the medical profession of the advantages offered by the Faculty of the College. Its Clinical facilities were unsurpassed, and not often equalled. During the year just closed, more than 3,000 cases were treated, including over 800 surgical operations. Besides the College clinic, there were in the city nineteen hospitals and 38 other charitable institutions whose doors were open to the Faculty and students of this school, thus affording every facility for the practical study of disease and injury without additional charge.

The period whose leading events are narrated on preceding pages, forms one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the Jefferson Medical College. It was begun under circumstances which were entirely favorable, and at its end the school was larger, and better, and stronger than ever before; not larger in that its classes numbered more students than at any previous time, but rather in that its reputation was world-wide; that it was known as one of the best institutions of medical learning in America, and that there was none better on this side of the Atlantic. It was no longer necessary that students who aimed to acquire the very best medical training, and who could afford the expense necessary to that end, should complete their studies in the universities of European cities, for Jefferson taught all the branches that formed a part of the courses of transatlantic schools, and in many respects its system was more modern, more advanced, and far more in keeping with the spirit of progress which then animated American enterprises of whatever character.

Jefferson always was truly and thoroughly American. Its Faculty was

not content with simply maintaining an institution equal to any other in Philadelphia; the aim was to establish the best, and nothing short of that standard of excellence would satisfy their ambition. The very character of the teachers comprising the Faculty at any time after 1841, and particularly during the period of which we write, was in itself a guarantee of the worth of the school; the names of Dunglison, Pancoast, Mütter, Gross, Mitchell, Huston, Meigs, Bache, Dickson, Wallace, Rand, Da Costa, Biddle, and others, gave repute to the institution in which they taught. On the other hand, these distinguished teachers were honored and elevated by their connection with Jefferson in the same degree as the College was honored by their work.